

THE  
COURT'S  
Apology.

Containing a short  
VINDICATION  
OF THE  
COURTIERS,  
FROM THE

Common *Aspersions* and *misre-  
ports* of Ignorance and Envy.

By L. G. A Daily Observator.

LONDON,  
Printed in the Year, MDGLXIII.

411.

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THE  
COURT

Apology

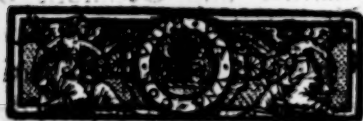
and a statement  
of the

COMMISSIONERS

of the  
COURT

of the

of the



THE  
COURT'S  
Apology, &c.

**I**S not my design so  
much to consult the  
Persons or Capacities  
of those to whom I ad-  
dresse my *Vindication*, as the  
A 2 Quali-

4      *The Court's*

Qualities and Occasions of  
those whose Patronage I have  
undertaken. The Imperti-  
nence of the Detractors, de-  
serves not satisfaction, but the  
Demeanours of the Slandered  
do necessarily exact a *Cloak*.

I am not ignorant with  
what resentment my Clyents  
will entertain an Advocate of  
their own Alliance Had it  
been an Exotick, or an unac-  
quaintance, their longanimity  
might have brib'd their longer  
Ears to an Audience; but 'tis  
not their custome to relish a  
tedious

*Apology.*

5

redious acquaintance, neither do they love to hear their *own*.

I pretend not an Apology for Ladies, against whom the clamours of the people cannot raise a scandal of prevalence, the down-right language (which proves usually successful with others) becoming uneffectual with Ladies of a Court Complexion; Since the Raylery of the Vulgar, and the Pourtraicture of a Satyrist (though never so much displaying them) must alike despair to make *them* blush, who

A 3

can

## 6 *The Court's*

can alwaies put a good *Face* upon it. I do not enterprife then a description of those; they alone can paint themselves in their proper *Colours*.

But although I may not presume to obtrude upon the World a Vindication of Ladies's Repute, yet I shall not make so far a digression from them, as to leave the Courtiers (their Profelites and Appen-dixes) unexcus'd, and to omit an Apology for those in whose faces 'tis most usual to cast dirt. 'Tis my ayme to  
wipe

*Apology.*

7

wipe those whom the Rout  
bespatter; and to new shadow  
them whose honour is eclipsed;  
and herein I cannot despond  
of good reception; For how  
can they, with whom a painted  
face is so attractive, disgust  
a draught that so much resembles  
them?

The first allegation where-  
with people keep their tongues  
in action, and amuse themselves  
into wonder, is the exorbitancy  
of Array and Attire expensive  
beyond the precincts of their  
annual sufficiencies.

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Where-

Whereas, I cannot but admire that men should so much scandal their own judgments, as to libel and decry the Courtiers good Apparel, since rich Attire is more dispensable and of a cheaper bargain with them, whole wits go still a wooll gathering.

The next, forsooth, wherewith we are acquainted, is a Gallimaffry of Nations from whence the Court derives a Motley Countenance, representing *Babel* in its Epitome, compos'd of nothing but the  
confusion



confusion of Languages. No, no, those whose inclinations are so bias'd towards Females, must unavoidably affect their Mother tongue. But what though there were a mixture of Speeches? Methinks that should not give occasion of disgust to those (whose Palats seldom disrelish an Oleo or Kickshaw) the Court it self being nothing else but a *French* dish. A diversity of Language in *White-hall*, is not (I hope) grown inexcusable; especially since there is large amends made

10      *The Court's*

made for their difference in  
Tongues, by their agreement  
in thought, and their being of  
one mind, each man having  
resolutely determined to de-  
fraud his *Master*.

The next thing whereby  
our Slanderers animate others  
to the disaffecting of Courti-  
ers, is A pretence of Bribery  
and Extortion; in that they  
weigh not what disposure  
they make of places, 'cause  
they are procured by pounds,  
giving occasion to some of  
prophesying, that the Court  
will

*Apology.*

11

will Break, 'cause Offices fall to Pieces. But had they not more mind to cavil, than receive satisfaction, they might acquiesce in consideration of the necessity of such Transactions, assuring themselves that there must needs be Corruption, where the Court is compos'd of such a Generation. And what though there be Corruption? Yet 'tis a Place of little infection; the Itch being the distemper most regnant, which renders them so desirous to be scratch'd, and for which

which we can prescribe no better a Remedy than a *Purgation*. As for the *Gout*, the *Plague* in the Purse is not onely a prevention of that, but antidotes all other *Malignities*.

Nor doth their next aspersion more participate of veracity; they themselves becoming injurious unto truth, while they challenge Courtiers of injustice, and disregard of merits, in the conferring either reward or punishment. For did they not <sup>ex</sup>*proposito* hoodwink themselves, how easily might

might they be convinc'd of a contrary deportment? since the Courtiers are so ambitious (*ad amussim*) to resemble Justice it self, that their distributions are made with the most accurate Blindnesse.

The fifth Stratagem whereby they work easie Ignorance into Credulity, is to lay deficiency of *Almes* at the Courtiers door, and to cast want of Charity into his Dish. Perswading men into an apprehension that they are Charitable to themselves alone. For the  
silencing

14      *The Court's*

silencing this Calumny, we might tell them that charity *begins* at home. But alas, this is but the *beginning* of Charity, whereas that of Courtiers is gone farther, and come even to it's utmost *End*.

And next (lest peradventure their Learning and Knowledg might stipulate either for their pretended Crimes or Deficiencies) They are indicted of Ignorance and contempt of Literature. Whereas, how easily are they acquitted from this Slander and Impeachment?

*Apology.* 15

ment? In that it is impossible with sound reason to accuse them of Ignorance, who are, each man, able to confound the wise, the Court it self being the very *confusion* of wisdom. Nor doth it lesse partake of absurditie, to asperse them with neglect of Learning, who are so much addicted to Books; each Shopkeepers Book can shew it.

That it is not Conscience, but Interest, (whatsoever appearances they make) which raises these Clamours, to the  
Infamy

16 *The Court's*

Infamy of the Court; and that their Concernments prompt them to these accusations, is easily visible in the next Impeachment; wherein we have Courtiers represented as *backward* in discharging all debts, (except those that Women demand) in so much that Creditours are necessitated to that incivility of dunning them at their Lodgings. Alas, how miserably do our Accusants mistake themselves, in alledging that for a Crime, which I am ready to produce in



in their Vindication? For in  
this demeanour of Courtiers,  
I apprehend nothing else than  
honesty in the engaging them-  
selves to an acknowledgment  
of their Debts, it being im-  
possible for them to refuse the  
Child when 'tis brought home  
to their own Doors. But we  
shall not gratifie our Adversa-  
ries so far, as to confesse the  
fact, since this scandal of re-  
missenesse in paying Debts is  
unmeasurably false; Neither  
do Courtiers trouble their  
scores to be brought home,  
B but

but meet them *half way*, and generously discharge them in the *middle*. Let not then any mis-reports excite their Creditours to mistrust, or Jealousie, since I dare safely pronounce them no Cheats; For there must unavoydably be honest *Dealing*, where there is so much *Shuffling*.

The eighth Cavillation whereby the Courtier is expos'd to Censure and Misprision, is *Pride*, and a violent Ambition of being admit'd. Whereas, could we withdraw  
the

the vizard of Spleen and Malevolence, we should have a prospect of qualities of another Complexion, and we might easily behold them courteous, loving and affable, courting their own shadowes, and complementing the very looking-glasse. And as for their desire of being wonder'd at, there is no such thing; For they have now taken the course to save others the expense of admiration, since they have learnt each man sufficiently to admire himself.

Partiality is the next which is foysted in to make up the number of the pretended Crimes of Court. Whereas the most superficial scrutiny will convince us, that with Courtiers there is no *respect of Persons*; In that they can passe by their old and intimate Acquaintance, without taking the least *cognizance* or notice of them.

Nor is it the Courtiers happiness to be the Object of these Scandals *alone*; but they are also traduc'd for not being  
stock'd

Stock'd with Loyalty proportionable to their Promotions, as not having shar'd in those sufferings which sunk the old Cavaliers. But an easie Vindication will expunge this obloquy, and undeceive the abused multitude, by signifying to them, That the Persons now preferr'd, have been, and are the greatest sufferers, *suffering* the greatest Crimes to be acted under their Nose; with impunity. Neither have they been (if well consider'd) lesse loosers. The Kings old Soul-

22      *The Court's*

diers lost indeed their Estates and Fortunes, but these have lost their *honesty* in his Majesty's service.

Much stir there is, about the quarrellsome disposition regnant in the Court, which indisposeth men for peace upon the least *foul* language; And 'tis accounted vanity in Courtiers to *stand* so much upon their honour. But these dis-resentments are taken up without cause, and the occasion will not justify the Cavil: For as to the first, they are so little addicted to take

exceptions at *foul* language as that they delight in nothing more, insomuch that 'tis not without some reason, many of them are thought to have been begotten in the *Stewes*; their Discourse being made up of nothing else but *ribaldry*. And as for the other, I think they have reason to *stand* upon their honour, *whose* carriage is the onely cause that 'tis so much *trodden under foot*. Besides, their Bickerings and Duels (which give greatest disgust) will be more pardonable if well considered,

24      *The Court's*

sidered, for they do not (as we erroneously apprehend) fight to vindicate<sup>a</sup> good *repute*, and *honorable name*, but meerly out of a design to get one, because they are conscious they *never* had any before.

'Tis alleadg'd moreover, that they much impoverish his Majesty by importuning his Revenues, and procuring his Manors for themselves, it being thought necessary that *that* King must needs be *poor*, whose Courtiers are all *Beggars*. But this is but an inconsiderable detraction,



detracti<sup>o</sup>n, and 'tis hop'd the future proceedings of the Court will give it the Lye; especially since some have given them a good example, by taking a course not to scandal the Court by open *begging* from the King, but by private, <sup>2</sup>both taking from him and their brethren.

Again, the undecency of their Carriage, made up of so many ridiculous gestures; accompanied with the continual motion and coranto of the legs & head, and attended with postures too light for the gravity  
of

of a Court; becomes the next Impeachment. But I do not conceive what other Behaviour we can expect: How can we hope for any other carriage than what is compos'd of *Antick tricks*, since the *French* have supply'd us with such a generation of *Apes*? Inasmuch, that many suppose *Æsop's* experiment might afford his Majesty very good divertisement; and that the scattering of a Bagge of *Nuts* would shew him all his Court together by the *Ears*.

The next thing wherewith  
the

*Apology.* 27

the people vex themselves, is the Courtiers youthful Indiscretion, and their assumed locks of borrowed hayre: As to the first, 'tis true they are generally young in countenance, but their brains do much participate of gravity and age, for I'm sure they are *worme-eaten*. And as for the last, it finds an obvious Apology, since there is such a Correspondence between *Periwiggs* and their heads, which being so furnished with nets, are nothing else but so many Barbers Shops.

But

28      *The Court's*

But all this while we have not question'd their Religion, which the mis-apprehensions of the vulgar deem to be none at all, or (at least) nearly ally'd to *Pohery*. Here I could wish my *Apology* might find acceptance, and that I might not be esteem'd partial in my attempting to justify their Divinity both in it's Practice and Theory. If I may be credited then, I can assure the Reader, that they are so far from being of no Religion, as that they are of *all*, and so far from running into the *old* one

one from whence we re-  
form'd, as that 'tis to be hop'd  
they have found a *newer way*  
to Heaven than the Word of  
God, since they can laugh at  
Scripture and deride a Sermon.  
Nor is their practical Theology  
far behind their Speculative;  
for 'tis expected every day that  
they will enter into a course of  
repentance, they are so addicted  
to *whoring*; and that lying will  
be out of fashion, they are so  
given to *swearing*.

As for Popery, 'tis true they  
seem inclinable thereunto;  
since

30      *The Court's*

since while they prostitute their devotion, and address their zeal to an handsome face, they do (with Papists) nothing but adore a *Picture*. But yet I dare defie the Intromission of Romish Rites into our Court, especially since the Ladies bear such a resolved antipathy to *Nuns*.

Hitherto have I been the Advocate of their Religion; If the Reader hath a desire to know more, let him consult their *Faces*, which speak them (in some sense) *Saints*, in that it presents  
many

*Apology.*

31

many (like the Almanack) in red letters; and others of more handsome features in the resemblance of those Saints they worship, viz. *Ladies*; for their faces as well as their manners pronounce them *effeminate*: Only there lies this difference between their Vilages and those of the Ladies, that the countenance of these, when amisse, is either patch'd up from their own boxes, or supply'd from the Painter's Shop; Whereas the Courtiers face, when it hath got a brack, may be

be recruited by a *Brazier*.

I hope my reserving the encomium of their faces to the posteriors of my Vindication, will not make them discountenance the rest; but rather by their wincking at this *hysteron proteron*, engage the farther endeavours of their inconsiderable Advocate

*L. G.*

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